



### ***Guidance for Applicants Seeking New Quahog or Restricted Finfish Endorsements***

As described in the accompanying document entitled *New License/Endorsement Opportunities Available for 2005*, 49 new Quahog endorsements on Commercial Fishing Licenses (CFLs) and 13 new Restricted Finfish endorsements on CFLs will be issued for 2005. As further described in the accompanying document, priority will be given to certain applicants for these endorsements. This document provides step-by-step guidance for applicants seeking either or both of these new endorsements, including: how to determine if you qualify for priority status and what you need to do to establish such status and properly submit an application. Individuals who do not qualify for priority status but still wish to obtain either or both of the new endorsements are still encouraged to apply, since there is a chance that all non-priority resident applicants will be given equal consideration (likewise for non-residents), pending the outcome of the prioritization process.

Any questions regarding the application process should be directed to DEM's Office of Boat Registration & Licensing at 222-6647.

#### **I. Priority Status under Tier 1A**

Q: Are you a RI resident?

If no, go to section VIII below.  
If yes, proceed to next question.

Q: Have you held a Commercial Fishing License (CFL) over the past two years – i.e., in 2003 and 2004?

If no, go to section II below.  
If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your CFL – i.e., can you demonstrate by dated transaction records that you have fished at least 75 days during 2003 and/or 2004, with at least 50 days in either of those two years?

If no, go to section II below.

If yes, you qualify for priority status under this tier and will be given top consideration for either or both of the endorsements, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2005, indicating which endorsement(s) you wish to obtain. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active CFL holder. Along with your application, you must submit the dated transaction records necessary to qualify for priority status. ***Please note that DEM will disqualify from consideration under***



*this priority tier any application that is not accompanied by a sufficient number of valid transaction records.*

## **II. Priority Status under Tier 1B**

Q: Are you a RI resident?

If no, go to section VIII below.  
If yes, proceed to next question.

Q: Have you held a Principal Effort License (PEL) over the past two years – i.e., in 2003 and 2004?

If no, go to section III below.  
If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your PEL – i.e., can you demonstrate by dated transaction records that you have fished at least 75 days during 2003 and/or 2004, with at least 50 days in either of those two years?

If no, go to section III below.  
If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Have you been actively fishing your PEL in the finfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries?

If no, proceed to the next question.

If yes, you qualify for priority status for a *Quahog endorsement* under this tier and will be given top consideration for the endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2005, indicating that you wish to obtain a CFL with a Quahog endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active PEL holder, based on your activity over the past two years in the finfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries. Along with your application, you must submit the dated transaction records necessary to qualify for priority status. ***Please note that DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority tier any application that is not accompanied by a sufficient number of valid transaction records.***

Q: Have you been actively fishing your PEL in the shellfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries?

If yes, you qualify for priority status for a *Restricted Finfish endorsement* under this tier and will be given top consideration for the endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2005, indicating that you wish to obtain a CFL with a Restricted Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active PEL holder, based on your activity over the past two years in the shellfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries. Along with your application, you must submit the dated transaction records necessary to qualify for priority status. ***Please note that DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority tier any application that is not accompanied by a sufficient number of valid transaction records.***



### **III. Priority Status under Tier 1C -- Finfish**

Q: Are you a RI resident?

If no, go to section VIII below.

If yes, proceed to next question.

Q: Have you served as a crew member aboard a commercial fishing vessel engaged in the finfish fishery?

If no, go to section IV below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Have you been actively participating as a crew member – i.e., can you demonstrate via one or more affidavits signed by one or more licensed captains, that you have fished with that captain, or those captains, in the finfish fishery at least 75 days during 2003 and/or 2004, with at least 50 days in either or those two years?

If no, go to section IV below.

If yes, you qualify for priority status for a *Restricted Finfish endorsement* under this tier and will be given top consideration for the endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2005, indicating that you wish to obtain a CFL with a Restricted Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active crew member, based on your activity in the finfish fishery. Along with your application, you must submit the affidavit(s) necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time, in years, they have been actively participating as crew members, so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been employed as a crew member. ***All applicants should use the blank affidavit forms available from DEM (and posted on the website along with this document). All affidavits must be signed by licensed captains and notarized. DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority tier any application that is not accompanied by one or more valid affidavits.***

### **IV. Priority under Tier 1C – Quahog**

Q: Are you a RI resident?

If no, go to section VIII below.

If yes, proceed to next question.

Q: Have you served as a crew member aboard a commercial fishing vessel engaged in the shellfish fishery?

If no, go to section V below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.



Q: Have you been actively participating as a crew member – i.e., can you demonstrate via one or more affidavits signed by one or more licensed captains, that you have fished with that captain, or those captains, in the shellfish fishery at least 75 days during 2003 and/or 2004, with at least 50 days in either or those two years?

If no, go to section V below.

If yes, you qualify for priority status for a *Quahog endorsement* under this tier and will be given top consideration for the endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2005, indicating that you wish to obtain a CFL with a Quahog endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active crew member, based on your activity in the quahog fishery. Along with your application, you must submit the affidavit(s) necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time, in years, they have been actively participating as crew members, so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been employed as a crew member. ***All applicants should use the blank affidavit forms available from DEM (and posted on the website along with this document). All affidavits must be signed by licensed captains and notarized. DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority tier any application that is not accompanied by one or more valid affidavits.***

## **V. Priority under Tier 2 -- Finfish**

Q: Are you a RI resident?

If no, go to section VIII below.

If yes, proceed to next question.

Q: Have you served as a crew member aboard a commercial fishing vessel engaged in the shellfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries?

If no, go to section VI below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Have you been actively participating as a crew member – i.e., can you demonstrate via one or more affidavits signed by one or more licensed captains, that you have fished with that captain, or those captains, at least 75 days during 2003 and/or 2004, with at least 50 days in either or those two years?

If no, go to section VI below.

If yes, you qualify for priority status for a *Restricted Finfish endorsement* under this tier and will be given secondary consideration for the endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2005, indicating that you wish to obtain a CFL with a Restricted Finfish endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active crew member, based on your activity in the shellfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries. Along with your application, you must submit the affidavit(s) necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the



length of time, in years, they have been actively participating as crew members, so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been employed as a crew member. ***All applicants should use the blank affidavit forms available from DEM (and posted on the website along with this document). All affidavits must be signed by licensed captains and notarized. DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority tier any application that is not accompanied by one or more valid affidavits.***

## **VI. Priority under Tier 2 -- Quahog**

Q: Are you a RI resident?

If no, go to section VIII below.

If yes, proceed to next question.

Q: Have you served as a crew member aboard a commercial fishing vessel engaged in the finfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries?

If no, go to section VII below.

If yes, proceed to the next question.

Q: Have you been actively participating as a crew member – i.e., can you demonstrate via one or more affidavits signed by one or more licensed captains, that you have fished with that captain, or those captains, at least 75 days during 2003 and/or 2004, with at least 50 days in either or those two years?

If no, go to section VI below.

If yes, you qualify for priority status for a *Quahog endorsement* under this tier and will be given secondary consideration for the endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2005, indicating that you wish to obtain a CFL with a Quahog endorsement. Your application must include a brief cover letter, indicating that you are seeking priority status as an active crew member, based on your activity in the finfish and/or lobster (crustacean) fisheries. Along with your application, you must submit the affidavit(s) necessary to qualify for priority status. Applicants will be ranked based on the length of time, in years, they have been actively participating as crew members, so it is to your advantage to document all of the years that you have been employed as a crew member. ***All applicants should use the blank affidavit forms available from DEM (and posted on the website along with this document). All affidavits must be signed by licensed captains and notarized. DEM will disqualify from consideration under this priority tier any application that is not accompanied by one or more valid affidavits.***

## **VII. Priority under Tier 3**

Q: Are you a RI resident?

If no, go to section VIII below.



If yes, you qualify for priority status under this tier and will be given consideration for either endorsement, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2005, indicating which endorsement(s) you wish to obtain.

#### **VIII. Priority under Tier 4**

Q: Are you a resident of a state other than RI?

If yes, you will be given consideration for a *Restricted Finfish endorsement*, in accordance with the selection process delineated in the accompanying document. To be considered, you must submit an application by February 28, 2005.